

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO USDOC WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 652

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, ECRP, PP

SUBJ: INCREASED COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN PNG AND U.S. RESPONSE

REF: PORT MORESBY 633

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO INCREASE IN PNG, PARTLY AS A RESULT OF UPCOMING INDEPENDENCE FROM AUSTRALIA. PRESENT ECONOMY IS LARGELY AUSTRALIAN CONTROLLED WITH 50 PER CENT EXPORT/IMPORTS GOING TO AUSTRALIA. BOTH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EVEN AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSMEN OPERATING IN PNG REALIZE ADVANTAGES FOR PNG IN DIVERSIFYING SOURCES OF IMPORTS.

2. BRITISH, FOR EXAMPLE, PLAN SENDING COMMERCIAL DELEGATION TO PNG IN NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS AND EXPECT A PNG DELEGATION TO VISIT LONDON LATER IN EFFORT TO INCREASE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. PRESS ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THAT ANOTHER PNG DELEGATION WOULD BE VISITING EUROPE LATER THIS YEAR TO ENCOURAGE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT IN LARGE SCALE PROJECTS.

3. CONGEN BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR USDOC TO DEVELOP, ALONG WITH DOS, PLANNING FOR U.S. OFFICIAL EFFORT IN CONJUNCTION WITH BOTH CANBERRA AND PORT MORESBY. SPECIFICALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT OFFICE IN USDOC WILL BE CHARGED WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY IN ORDER FOR CONGEN TO ESTABLISH

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REGULAR COMMUNICATION OVER NEXT SIX MONTHS AS PLANNING GOES

FORWARD.

4. CONGEN ALSO BELIEVES IT APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF PNG CCP AND WOULD LIKE COMMENTS FROM BOTH DOS AND USDOC ON THIS. WE ARE PRESENTLY INCLUDED IN CCP FOR AUSTRALIA AND WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CANBERRA'S EXPERIENCE IN FORMULATING ITS CCP, BUT EXPECT THAT OTHER CCPS IN AREA MAY BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO OUR SITUATION HERE AND APPRECIATE ANY SPECIFIC COUNTRY PROGRAMS USDOC OR DOS MAY SUGGEST FROM WHICH CONGEN COULD LEARN.

5. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN KNOWING OF ANY POTENTIAL TRADE MISSIONS IN AREA WHICH MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SENDING TWO OR THREE MEMBERS ON TO PNG AS EXTENSION OF REGULAR MISSION ITINERARY. THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD NEED CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT IN ORDER TO SEE THAT MISSION MEMBERS DID NOT FEEL THEY WERE WASTING TIME AND MONEY VISITING PNG. FOR PRESENT, WE EXPECT THAT INVESTMENT IS OF MOST INTEREST TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN.

6. BESIDES MINERALS AND PETROLEUM/NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION AND INVESTMENT, U.S. BUSINESSMEN SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER TIMBER AND FISHING, BOTH AREAS RICH IN POTENTIAL AND RELATIVELY UN-DEVELOPED.

7. FOR EXPORTERS, MOST INTERESTING RECENT DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN EXPANSION OF PACIFIC FAR EAST LINES TO INCLUDE PORTS OF LAE, RABAU AND KIETA. PFEL ALSO CONSIDERING ADDING PORT MORESBY TO THIS. IN RECENT COUNTRYWIDE TOUR, E/C OFFICER TALKED WITH NUMBER OF BUSINESSMEN EAGER TO USE NEW FACILITIES BOTH TO IMPORT FROM U.S. AND EXPORT. PFEL RATES ARE VERY COMPETITIVE HERE AND THUS TRADE SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY AIDED BY THE NEW SHIPPING FACILITY. WITH VERY HIGH PRICES FOR PRODUCTS AND LONG DELIVERY TIMES FROM OTHER AREAS, PFEL MAKES U.S. GOODS EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE.

8. PNG MARKET IS, OF COURSE, SMALL BY WORLD STANDARDS, BUT IT WILL GROW AND WE BELIEVE U.S. SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHANGING CONDITIONS TO GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

9. FOR CANBERRA: APPRECIATE COPY OF AUSTRALIAN CCP AND OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATERIAL WHICH WILL BE OF USE TO US.
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